Our Toronto

VOL. 3 **ISSUE 3** FALL 2010

Building a great city – together

Toronto City Hall

Why vote?

YOUR municipal government – more than any other government – has the greatest impact on your quality of life in Toronto. Garbage and recycling collection, the water you drink, the roads you use, public libraries, parks, recreation programs, transit and emergency services (fire, police and ambulance) are all examples of City services. In total, there are more than 40 City services that are delivered to you by your municipal government, and these services directly affect you every day.

The Mayor and City Council members elected in the upcoming election will determine the City's priorities for the next four years.

VOTE
OCTOBER 25
toronto.ca/elections

On October 25, you will have the power to influence the decisions that will be made in your city and your neighbourhood.

That's why it is so important that you vote in this municipal election.

toronto.ca/elections

TORONTO

The official publication of the City of Toronto

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See pages 8 and 9 for important information about the upcoming municipal election.

Our Toronto

Building a great city – together

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Vous trouverez ce journal en français au site web ci-dessous. (French)

在以下所示網站上有該報紙的中文版本。 (Chinese)

இந்தச் செய்தித்தாளின் தமிழ்ப் பிரதி பின்வரும் இணையத் தளத்தில் இடம்பெற்றுள்ளது. (Tamil)

Questo giornale è disponibile in italiano sul sito Web che segue. (Italian)

Este periódico está disponible en español en el sitio web indicado abajo. (Spanish)

Este jornal está disponível em português no sítio Web abaixo indicado. (Portuguese)

Makikita ang Tagalog na edisyon ng pahayagang ito sa website sa ibaba. (Tagalog)

یہ اخبار نیچے دی گئی ویب سائٹ پر اُردو زبان میں دستیاب ہے۔ (Urdu)

Данная газета на русском языке имеется на нижеуказанном веб-сайте. (Russian)

این نشریه به آدرس انترنتی ذیل به زبان فارسی قابل دسترسی میباشد. (Farsi)

이 신문은 아래의 웹터에서 한국어로 보실 수 있습니다. (Korean)

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FSC Recycled

Toronto's Ombudsman – the office of last resort

TORONTO'S first Ombudsman is an independent officer of City Council who advocates for fairness, and investigates complaints about the administration of the City government.

The Ombudsman's Office opened in April 2009 and processed 1,057 complaints in the first year. A number of investigations have now been completed, the most recent dealing with a homeowner's struggle to solve sewage backup issues with the City.

Contact the Ombudsman if you have a complaint, but remember that the office is a last resort after you have tried to sort it out with City officials.

For complaints, or to have the Ombudsman to speak to your group, please e-mail ombuds@toronto.ca or call 416-392-7062.

ombudstoronto.ca

Spadina Museum

HOME to four generations of the Austin family from the 1860s until the late 1970s, Spadina Museum is currently undergoing a renovation. It will reopen in October. Read more on page 15.

Spadina Museum, which the City opened in 1984, is one of 10 historic museums operated by the City of Toronto. Spadina Museum is located at 285 Spadina Rd.

toronto.ca/spadina-restoration
416-392-6910

Message from Mayor David Miller

Mayor Miller and hundreds of workers at Lovat Inc's Etobicoke facility celebrate the purchase of new machines that will dig the tunnel for the Eglinton-Crosstown Transit City LRT line.

AS Mayor for the past seven years, I have been privileged to see the City of Toronto in a unique way every day. I take great pride in the positive changes that City Council and the women and men of the Toronto Public Service have worked together to bring about. They are changes that have cemented Toronto's reputation as one of the most liveable - and recently, coolest* – cities in the world.

The fact is City services touch every Torontonian every day. Whether the issues are large or small, your municipal government works 24 hours a day to keep the city running.

Roads and bike paths, sidewalks, transit, parks and beaches, recreation programs for all ages, libraries, the water you drink, garbage and recycling collection, snow removal and street cleaning, police, fire and emergency services, public health – these are just some of the services that are provided by your City government.

Your municipal government is also involved in the cultural life of the city through the provision of grants to various arts organizations and through the delivery of programming such as Nuit Blanche, Cavalcade of Lights and WinterCity.

Toronto is also a caring, compassionate city and your municipal government provides supports such as shelter and counselling for the homeless and the jobless. Long-term care homes are available for the elderly, as is child care for the city's children.

Add to that, the many initiatives, strategies and programs that support the City's goals: the Agenda for Prosperity, Tower Renewal, the Clean Energy Strategy, Transit City – to name but a few. These are all initiatives that have been endorsed by your City Council and will direct the city's future growth and provide opportunities for residents and businesses to prosper.

No order of government has as much daily impact on its residents as your city government. That is why it is so important for everyone to have their say in choosing that government and why I urge all eligible voters to cast their ballots on Monday, October 25, 2010. Your newly elected City Council and Mayor will oversee the delivery of your City services. They will allocate your property tax dollars to pay for these services and Council will decide what kind of city Toronto will be. It is your right and your responsibility to vote.

The first step is to get on the Voters' List. Being on the Voters' List ensures that you will receive a Voter Information Card that will tell you where and when you can vote, and speeds up the process on Election Day. Call 311. A customer service representative can tell you if you're on the Voters' List and if not, can help to make sure that you are added in time for Election Day.

Torontonians can, should and must have their say in shaping their city. You can do so by taking a few minutes on Monday, October 25 to vote.

Toronto's future depends on it.

toronto.ca/mayor_miller

DISCOVER

YOUR LOCAL BOOK STORE

Discover Your Independents

CBA Independents' Day: October 16, 2010

www.findabookstore.ca

* see Huffington Post (huffingtonpost.com)

Rain is Mother Nature's gift

IN a large city like Toronto, rainwater often has no place to be absorbed, so it makes its way into the nearest storm sewer, picking up grease, garbage, bacteria and other pollutants along the way before discharging into the nearest waterway.

Everyone who has a garden needs water to maintain it, so why not keep the rain that Mother Nature delivers to you? If you help keep water out of the storm sewers, you'll be helping to improve the ecosystem in our waterways and reduce basement flooding.

Here's what you can do to help:

- Install a rain barrel and use the rainwater to water your grass and gardens.
- Disconnect your downspout and let the water be absorbed by your grass and gardens or flow into a rain barrel.
- Increase the amount of green space around your home by planting native plants and/or trees that can help absorb water.
- Cover bare soil with mulch or plants.
- Replace hard surfaces such as driveways, walkways and patios with porous paving or other absorbent materials.

toronto.ca/water

Rain barrels are an effective tool for collecting water.

Closing time – pool rules for the end of the season

IF you own a swimming pool, hot tub or spa, you have a responsibility and legal obligation to safely maintain and operate it — even when you use a professional pool services contractor.

As the warm weather draws to an end, here are some things to keep in mind when closing your pool, hot tub or spa for the season:

- Chlorine/bromine levels must be below 0.1mg/L before discharging pool water into the storm sewer system. To get your pool to this level, do not add any chemicals to your pool for seven days – and be sure to test your levels before discharging the water.
- Do not empty your pool during a rainy day, as it may overwhelm the storm sewer system.
- The water from saltwater pools has such high levels of chlorides that it cannot be discharged into the storm sewer system. It must be carefully discharged to a sanitary system connection on your own property or hauled away.
- Water from both chlorine and saltwater pools may also be discharged onto your property surrounding your home, but only if it can be properly absorbed into the ground without flowing onto your neighbours' property or the street.
- Water from pools cannot be released into or near ravines or valleys because the flow can cause erosion and foliage damage.

Remember: the grates on roads lead to storm sewers that flow directly to nearby waterways. If your pool spills into a waterway or grate/storm sewer without proper treatment, the spill must be reported to provincial and municipal authorities and stopped as soon as possible.

toronto.ca/water

Steps to help you prevent basement flooding

TORONTO'S sewer system is designed to handle most storms. However, owing to climate change, storms are getting more frequent and severe. As a result, the system can become overloaded, flooding streets and creating ponds in low-lying areas. The City is working continually to improve the sewer system in areas that experience chronic basement flooding. Homeowners can also take preventive steps.

Disconnect your downspouts

Many homes in Toronto have downspouts that carry rainwater from roofs directly into a drainpipe connected to the sewer system. During severe rainfall, excess stormwater flowing from downspouts may overload the sewer system, and result in flooded basements.

Further, if a property is not graded properly, rainwater can enter a home through basement walls, windows and foundation cracks. Ideally, water from disconnected downspouts should be directed into a rain barrel or onto the grass or garden and away from any neighbouring properties.

By disconnecting downspouts, homeowners will help reduce the risk of basement flooding. Find out more.

toronto.ca/water/protecting_quality/downspout_diy.htm

toronto.ca/water/basement_flooding_video.htm

A North American first: converting biogas to natural gas

Let organics fuel your tank

THE City is going to turn Green Bin organics into fuel to operate Toronto's solid waste collection trucks. A pilot program aims to convert the biogas produced from Green Bin material into refined natural gas for distribution across Enbridge's system. In essence, Toronto will be making its own natural gas, which in turn will replace the diesel fuel currently used to operate collection trucks.

Creating natural gas from kitchen waste will be a first in North America. Unlike conventional composting, the anaerobic (without oxygen) digestion system at Toronto's Dufferin plant produces both compost and biogas. When the biogas is refined, it becomes natural gas.

Natural gas has less environmental impact than other fossil fuels, which will help decrease the environmental impact of the fuel used by the City.

Ultimately, this natural gas will fuel 300 collection vehicles, replacing the 4 million litres of diesel fuel currently used each year by Toronto Solid Waste vehicles. Enough gas will be left over to heat some City buildings.

The City is also adding a second Green Bin/biogas facility and will be expanding and upgrading the Dufferin plant.

So, keep feeding your Green Bin. Using kitchen waste to fuel our trucks is exactly what contributes to Toronto's international reputation as a large, eco-friendly, green and sustainable city.

toronto.ca/recycle

Thanks, but no tanks

WE all want to recycle what we can, but some items just don't belong in the Blue Bin. Propane tanks of any size - small camp canisters, and small and barbecue or helium tank are considered dangerou hazardous waste.

In 2009, 9.5 tonnes of propane tanks incorrect ended up at the City's recycling facility (96 pe cent were small campin type cylinders and 4 pe were large barbecue tan Incorrect disposal of th tanks increases the pote injury, damage to processing/sorting equipment, work delays, lost time and contamination of the waste stream.

The best way to get rid of your propane tanks (even if empty), is to a City drop-off depot or mmunity Environment onment Days run from October throughout and provide an tunity to dispose of or e unused and unwanted ehold items and reduce mount of waste going ndfill.

sure to visit the City's cling web page and click ASTE WIZARD to learn bout the ins and outs of

toronto.ca/recycle

Construction season in the city

THIS summer has been a very busy one for road construction. In 2010, the City is spending more than $205 million to improve the quality of Toronto's roads and bridges. That work includes about $45 million for major projects and another $80 million on road work in conjunction with watermain and sewer replacement, as well as initiatives that improve the look of the city.

What this means to you is that City crews have filled more than 120,000 potholes so far this year and will have repaved about 210 km of roads by the time winter comes. Major projects include the elimination of the Dufferin jog and the re-paving of Steeles Avenue. In one annual survey, Steeles Avenue has been consistently voted one of the worst roads in the province, so drivers should notice a huge improvement. Bridge repair work undertaken now will ensure the continued safety of our bridges for many years to come.

We also needed to close roads for the many festivals and events that took place just about every weekend during the summer months. These festivals were enjoyed by residents and tourists alike, and contributed to the vibrancy of Toronto. These road closures are integral to both the safety of those enjoying the events and the success of the event itself.

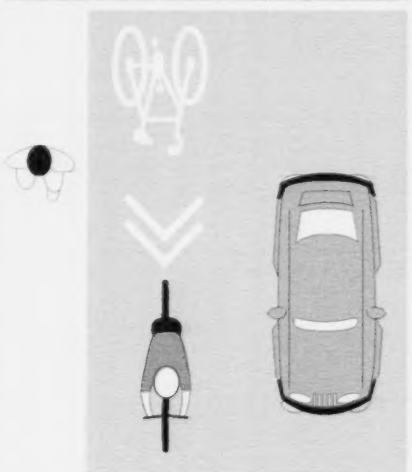
While streets are closed from time to time for special events or planned roadwork to improve the quality of the road network, the City attempts to minimize disruptions to the travelling public wherever possible.

Be sure to visit the City's web page that shows ongoing and emergency road construction, travel conditions on Toronto roads and special events.

toronto.ca/torontostreets

Watermain and sewer replacements: working hard for long-term infrastructure improvement

Road markings help cyclists and drivers share the road



IMPROVING cycling conditions makes it easier and safer for cyclists and drivers. The City is introducing new pavement markings to help cyclists and motorists share the road as they travel on city streets.

These pavement markings, called sharrows, feature a bicycle symbol with chevrons above it and are being installed on roads that are used by cyclists where a bike lane is not present. The sharrow markings provide cyclists with a guide for where to ride on the street – far enough away from the curb to avoid obstacles and to discourage cars from passing too close. They also show motorists where they can expect cyclists to be riding.

Sharrows were painted on College Street in May, and they will be added to Spadina Avenue, Bay Street, Lappin Avenue, and Hallam Street, as well as some other city streets, by the end of the year.

Street markings alert motorists to expect cyclists.

toronto.ca/cycling/network/sharrow_faq.htm

News for developers – Toronto greening development

Green roofs will help cool buildings and absorb rainwater in the asphalt jungle.

ON January 31, 2010, the Toronto Green Standard and the Green Roof bylaw came into effect. Both are aimed at greening future buildings in the city. The Green Roof bylaw requires the construction of green roofs on new development and applies to new residential, commercial and industrial buildings with more than 2,000 square metres of gross floor space. The City also offers an Eco-Roof incentive program for eligible projects. The Toronto Green Standard is a set of environmental performance measures that promote sustainable site and building design for new development.

toronto.ca/greendevelopment
toronto.ca/greenroofs
toronto.ca/livegreen/ecoroofs

New online licence and permit web tools make it easier for customers

THE City's Municipal Licensing and Standards division has launched three web applications aimed at improving customer service:

Online application for A-Frame signs allows qualified businesses to apply for a temporary sign permit. As long as all the necessary information accompanies the online application, the permit can be issued without the customer having to go to a City office.

Online licence renewal payment system accepts payment for most licence renewals. It's fast, easy and convenient. This renewal is especially useful for taxi drivers, stationary business operators and others whose licence renewal simply involves payment of the renewal fee.

Online licence status look-up allows residents to check the licence status of businesses in Toronto. Examples of businesses that are of particular interest to residents are restaurants and contractors/home renovators. The City always recommends that residents hire licensed contractors when doing work at their home or business. Municipal Licensing and Standards issues those licences to different types of trades and businesses, and the system is now in place to check licence status from your home computer or mobile device.

toronto.ca/licensing

Next TTC streetcar arrival time just a text message away

TTC customers can now send an SMS (Short Message Service) text message to the TTC for a specific streetcar stop and receive a real-time reply stating the expected arrival time of the next six streetcars at that stop.

More than 600 streetcar stop poles have been affixed with decals that indicate a unique number for that stop. All stop numbers can also be found at ttc.ca. Customers waiting for a streetcar can send a text message to 898882 ("txtttc"). Using GPS technology, the TTC then sends an automated reply to the customer's cell phone advising them of when the next six streetcars are due to arrive at that stop. For streetcar stops that service more than one route, replies will be sent based on the arrival times of up to the next six streetcars at that stop and each arrival time will indicate the route number.

There is no cost to TTC customers for this feature. However, standard text messaging rates apply and riders should check with their service provider about their own text messaging rates and plans.

ttc.ca

Send a text message to 898882 (txtttc) for streetcar arrival times.

How to get on the Voters' List

ARE you on the Voters' List? It's important that you are, as it makes voting fast and easy. Getting on the list is as simple as 1, 2, 3:

1. Call 311 to find out if you are on the Voters' List.
2. If you're not on the list or if your information needs to be updated, simply complete the Voters' List Change Request form. The form can be downloaded from the Elections web page or can be mailed to you.
3. Mail the completed form along with a photocopy of acceptable identification to Election Services, or visit any one of the City Clerk's Offices in person with acceptable identification by October 15.

It's as simple as that.

You can still vote even if you're not on the Voters' List. Show up to your voting place with acceptable identification and you can be added to the list when you go to vote.

For more information about what identification is acceptable or to download the Voters' List Change Request form, visit the following web page.

toronto.ca/elections

Election accessibility initiatives

THE 2010 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan supports and strengthens the City's commitment to the needs of persons with disabilities:

- All voting places will be accessible and accessibility information about each location is available on the Elections web page.
- Touch Screen Terminals will be available during the Weekday Advance Vote (October 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13) enabling people with visual disabilities to vote independently and privately though the use of audio ballots and a Braille key pad.
- A Voter Assist Terminal will be available during the Weekend Advance Vote (October 16 and 17). It allows people with various disabilities to vote independently and privately using a variety of assistive devices, including a touch screen, Braille key pad, rocker paddle and sip/puff devices, audio headset, and a zoom feature to adjust font sizes and colour contrast.
- Information about how to operate the Touch Screen and Voter Assist Terminals is available on the Elections web page in video and audio formats.
- Written instructions on how to vote will be available at all voting places in Braille, large print and in English and 22 additional languages. This information is also available on the Elections web page.
- Magnification sheets will be available at each voting place to assist voters who have low vision.
- Election information for the deaf or hard of hearing is available by calling the TTY line at 416-338-0889.
- If you wish, you may bring a friend along to help you if you are unable to mark your ballot on your own. Or ask an election official for assistance. In either case, you will need to swear an oath at the voting location.

toronto.ca/elections/accessibility
TTY: 416-338-0889

TE
BER 25
a/elections

Important

New identification (ID) requirements

THERE are new identification requirements for this election. You are required to show ID to be added to the Voters' List or to receive a ballot.

When you come to vote, please bring:

- ✓ One piece of ID showing your name, Toronto address and signature. For example: Ontario Driver's Licence, Ontario Health Card photo style, mortgage, lease, rental agreement or a cancelled personal cheque; *or*
- ✓ Two pieces of ID; one piece of ID showing your name and signature, for example: a credit card, debit card or Canadian passport; and a second piece of ID showing your name and Toronto address, for example: a utility bill for hydro, telephone, cell phone or cable, City of Toronto tax bill or income tax assessment notice.

If you do not have ID but your name is on the Voters' List, you will be required to sign a Declaration of Identity to receive a ballot.

toronto.ca/elections

A youth's perspective on the election

THIS fall's municipal election is a great opportunity for youth, like you and I, to give our opinion about how the city that we call home is run. The City of Toronto operates many services that we use, and when we vote, each of us is sending a message to politicians about what kind of city we want to live in. The first step to making your voice heard is to find the person who best represents your views. If you choose not to vote, you are giving up one of the easiest ways to vocalize what you want to see happening within your city. If you don't tell our politicians what issues matter to you, then they can't represent you in government. When you vote, you are sending a message – and the more people who vote with you, the more powerful that message is. Toronto is an incredible city and you should feel proud to live in it! In October, exercise your right to vote and have a say in its future.

Faraz Safda is the winner of the City's Bring it by Ballot poster contest. The winning poster will be used in an upcoming advertising campaign.

Heather D. Age 21, Toronto

Welcome Policy

Access to free recreation programs made easier for residents

THE City has made it easier for residents to enroll in its Welcome Policy program and to access free recreation programs.

The Welcome Policy allows individuals and families living below the Low Income Cut Off to participate in City-operated recreation programs for free. Effective September 1, residents wishing to apply for the Welcome Policy will be connected to the Toronto Employment and Social Services Application Centre by calling 311. Processing time for the application may be as little as one day, depending on receipt of supporting documentation. Changes to the enrolment procedures also means that Torontonians receiving social assistance will automatically qualify for membership, and do not need to apply separately.

Welcome Policy application forms are available online, at community and civic centres, libraries and at City employment centres, or by calling 311. Applications can be submitted by fax, mail or in person. Once approved, Welcome Policy members have access to the same range of recreation program registration options as all other residents, including touch-tone and online registration.

The City of Toronto Welcome Policy program is the largest recreation subsidy program of its kind in Canada. There are 50,000 approved Welcome Policy clients in the program, enrolled in more than 60,000 recreation programs.

toronto.ca/parks/welcome_policy.htm
toronto.ca/torontofun

SAVE MORE THAN MONEY

Show your Live Green Toronto membership card when you shop for environmentally friendly products and services. By making green choices, you'll help the environment and receive special offers and discounts.
Get your free card at livegreencard.ca

TORONTO 311 Livegreen Toronto

"Cut it Out Toronto!" at Canadian Tire this fall

Turn in old gas-powered lawn equipment for a $25 Canadian Tire bonus card.

THE City and Canadian Tire are encouraging all Torontonians to help cut the emissions responsible for climate change by recycling their old gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment at Canadian Tire this fall.

Older gas-powered leaf and snow throwers, lawnmowers and trimmers emit a high level of pollutants into the air compared to newer equipment built to more stringent emission standards. In fact, according to Environment Canada, running a 10-year-old gas-powered lawnmower for one hour is equivalent to driving a new car between 320 and 480 kilometres. That's like driving from Toronto to Ottawa.

Significant emissions savings can be achieved by upgrading to a newer model or by replacing your old equipment with other environmentally-preferable products such as push mowers.

Help build a cleaner, greener Toronto by retiring your old lawn and garden equipment at the four Canadian Tire stores listed below on September 18 and 19 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and the items will be sent for responsible dismantling and recycling. You will be rewarded with a $25 bonus card redeemable at any of the 21 Canadian Tire stores in Toronto (maximum five bonus cards per household).

"Cut it Out Toronto!" is just one way that the City and Canadian Tire are working together to help Torontonians green their homes and neighbourhoods. Canadian Tire is also a sponsor of the City's Live Green Toronto Festival and community grants program.

Participating locations:
Leslie & Lake Shore, 1015 Lake Shore Blvd. E
The Queensway, 1608 The Queensway
Willowdale, 1019 Sheppard Ave. E
Warden & Eglinton, 1901 Eglinton Ave. E

livegreentoronto.ca

Volunteering opportunities

ANOTHER school year is upon us and with it a reminder that all Ontario students have a requirement to complete 40 hours of community involvement in order to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Volunteering is not just a requirement of graduation but an opportunity to get involved in your community, add to your resumé, develop new skills, meet new friends and have fun.

Whether you're a parent, child, half way through your career or just starting out, volunteering can give you what you need to succeed.

volunteertoronto.ca
416-961-6888

Full-day kindergarten and child care in Toronto

SCHOOL is now in for many four and five-year-olds in Toronto. They are attending full-day kindergarten for the first time this September, as part of the Province's early learning program. Some parents with children in child care may be wondering how child care fits with full-day kindergarten.

For families who have a subsidy for child care, and whose children attend before and after school care, they will keep their subsidy. For families who don't have a subsidy but may need one, the City's role in subsidy management will ensure equitable access to the fee-based extended day program for before and after school.

This September, 101 Toronto schools will offer full day kindergarten, followed by 21 more in September 2011, and all schools at the end of five years.

toronto.ca/children/early_learning.htm

For families who have a subsidy for child care, and whose children attend before and after school care, they will keep their subsidy.

Regent Park Employment Services – new location

THE City's Employment and Social Services (TESS) division is working directly in communities across the city to deliver a wide range of programs and services aimed at helping people find and keep work.

One such office, Regent Park Employment Services, has been providing employment services to residents in Regent Park since late 2007. The City's trained career and employment information specialists are on site to help local residents get training, education and employment opportunities.

Torontonians can also seek help with career planning, resumé and cover letter writing, job search coaching, interview skills, job retention supports and much more. Available resources and services include use of computers with internet access, laser printer, scanner, photocopier, fax, telephones, community agency presentations and information about job fairs and community events.

If you need help getting a job, please visit the expanded Regent Park Employment Services at its new location at 530 Dundas St. E. or any of the City's other employment resource centres.

The City can help you with career planning.

toronto.ca/socialservices/erc_chart.htm

Newcomers gain valuable experience in child care

MANY newcomers to Canada obtained meaningful employment with the help of the work experience they gained in City of Toronto-operated child care centres. Each year, a number of new Canadians learn about working in the field of early learning and care through volunteer placements. These placements have been so successful that a number of individuals were subsequently hired as child care assistants, food service workers, or are providing child care in their own home under contract to Toronto Home Child Care. COSTI Immigrant Services acknowledged the success of the City's program by awarding the City the Spirit of Diversity Award.

toronto.ca/children

New waterfront parks

Since opening in July, Canada's Sugar Beach has become a must-see Toronto destination. Tourists and locals are visiting the park to climb its candy striped rocks, have pictures taken under the pink umbrellas and sunbathe in its sugar-like sand.

Canada's Sugar Beach

LOCATED south of Queens Quay just east of the foot of Lower Jarvis Street, Canada's Sugar Beach offers a unique view of Toronto's harbour, with white Muskoka beach chairs under giant pink beach umbrellas. Visitors can cool off at the beach in its spectacular granite maple leaf water feature.

Sherbourne Common

SHERBOURNE Common is the largest park in East Bayfront, spanning two city blocks on the north and south side of Queen's Quay, just east of Lower Sherbourne Street. The south side of the park opened to the public in August and the north side of the park will open later this fall.

Water's Edge Promenade

THIS summer, the first 270-metre segment of a planned kilometre-long water's edge promenade opened in East Bayfront. This stunning new addition gives the public an opportunity to walk from Canada's Sugar Beach to Sherbourne Common. The promenade features red and grey granite cobblestones in a maple leaf mosaic pattern and a double row of maple trees.

waterfrontoronto.ca

And the winner is... Sherbourne Common

IN the last issue of Our Toronto, we told you about Waterfront Toronto teaming up with the news site Torontoist.com to hold a contest to rename what was then Sherbourne Park. More than 500 names were submitted. In the end, Doug Dent's suggestion of Sherbourne Common received the most votes by the public. The south side of the park opened in August; the north side will open in the fall.

Can you make room for a cat?

"THE cat population is a major problem in Toronto," says Mary Lou Leiher. "So cat lovers, we've got the pet for you. Male or female - any age, colour or personality. Call Toronto Animal Services today."

As a Toronto Animal Services supervisor, Mary Lou has witnessed thousands of successful cat adoptions. She's seen thousands of dogs, hamsters, rats, rabbits and birds find happy homes as well. The key is matching the animal to the owner.

"Pet adoption isn't a pass-fail process," Mary Lou explains. "But we interview all potential pet owners to ensure they're prepared for the responsibility. It's best to think ahead."

Thinking ahead includes spaying or neutering one's pet, which reduces Toronto's stray population. Adoptions aren't free, but the fee covers a veterinary health check, sterilization, microchip implantation and rabies vaccination. It's the best deal out there, not just for animals but for owners, too.

toronto.ca/animal_services

York Woods Library takes centre stage with new arts hub

MAYOR David Miller joined members of the Jane-Finch arts community earlier this summer to celebrate the opening of the Arts Hub located at the York Woods Branch of Toronto Public Library.

Made possible through the City of Toronto's Partnership Opportunities Legacy fund and Toronto Public Library, the new Arts Hub features accessible, shared meeting space and a rehearsal and production studio equipped with sprung wood flooring (a sprung floor is a floor that absorbs shocks thereby enhancing performance and reducing injuries), and specialty lighting and mirrors for use by all Torontonians. The space perfectly complements the York Woods branch's existing theatre.

"The Arts Hub is an investment in both the neighbourhood and in the lives of artists in the Jane-Finch community and will nurture talent, encourage creativity and grow skills," said Mayor David Miller. "The arts community now has a facility that is befitting the wealth of artistic talent in the neighbourhood. No more practicing in hallways, parking lots and facilities far outside the area."

"This day has become a reality after three years of hard work by grassroots artists and art groups," said City Librarian Jane Pyper. "The Arts Hub provides the library with an opportunity to engage and partner with residents and art groups in the Jane-Finch community and to nurture a wide range of cultural and artistic initiatives."

The Partnership Opportunities Legacy Fund gives priority to youth-focused initiatives at the neighbourhood level. For every dollar the City invests, approximately $1.90 has been leveraged in partnership funding. At program completion, it is anticipated that $37.7 million will have been invested in Toronto's 13 priority neighbourhoods, of which $13 million is a direct City investment.

MCs for the evening, local performer and coordinating committee member Sabrina "Butterfly" Gopaul and her son Isiah "Zea" Lea (Lost Lyrics).

torontopubliclibrary.ca

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TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kelly Morrison as Elizabeth and Robert Ouellette as the Earl of Leicester in the East Side Players production of Mary Stuart

East Side Players Community Theatre Company – renovated theatre adds to audience experience

FOR 35 years, East Side Players has produced award-winning live theatre at the City-owned Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Arts Centre. Located at the bottom of Pottery Road, this complex of historical buildings was part of the small industrial community of Todmorden.

The Papermill Theatre has been renovated into a state-of-the-art, air-conditioned 164-seat theatre with free onsite parking. The beautiful gallery lobby often exhibits work by local artists. (Gallery and theatre rentals are available. For more information, call 416 396 2820.)

The Papermill Theatre shares the space with other live performance groups, but the East Side Players is the resident theatre company, producing a three-show season. Comedies, dramas, mysteries and thrillers have kept audiences engaged and returning year after year. To date over 200,000 patrons have been entertained, enlightened and challenged, and many are regular subscribers. Audiences keep coming back for a reason.

eastsideplayers.ca
toronto.ca/culture/museums

Favourite City Service, Favourite City Place

THE D'souza family wrote in to tell us about each of their favourite places and favourite services in Toronto.

Six-year-old Daniel wrote, "I like pottery class the best. I attend the class at Heron Park Community Centre. My teacher's name is Csilla. She is very nice and taught me to make many sculptures with clay and paint them."

Twelve-year-old Caroline wrote, "My favourite thing to do is to sit down on a couch in front of a television, with a movie playing, and what better place to get the movies than the Toronto Public Library. At the library, I get many books for projects, and in the summer, I do the reading program, but my favourite thing to check out at the library is movies."

Their mother, Lovina, also enjoys the Toronto Public Library: "I enjoy borrowing many books and DVDs, especially for my children. They also keep flyers and information about various programs that sometimes my children participate in. Children can spend time in the library during summer holidays and be involved in the reading program. The borrowing system is convenient and the staff are friendly and helpful. I also like the events during the long weekends which keep the city vibrant and active."

Father Kevin likes the City's swimming program for children: "With all the bodies of water in Canada, learning to swim is a must."

Do you have a favourite place in the city? Is there one service that you really like? Write us at ourtoronto@toronto.ca

The D'Souza family (from left to right): Grandmother Emilda Rodricks, Lovina, Caroline, Michelle and Kevin, with Daniel D'Souza at the front.

Toronto: then and now

Spadina Museum: Historic House & Gardens

FOR over a century, Spadina House was home to four generations of the Austin family. Since 1984, Spadina Museum has been one of 10 historic museums operated by the City of Toronto.

Spadina Museum: Historic House & Gardens is completing an interior restoration to depict life during the 1920s and 1930s. Scheduled to reopen in October, the revitalized museum will be Toronto's only museum to represent this compelling era.

Museum staff were able to draw from a wealth of family records and other documentation left by the Austin family in order to recreate the era. The interior decor of the museum, from draperies and wallpapers to furniture and lighting, represents this era with reproduced materials and original family artefacts.

Through dynamic new programming, visitors will explore the lives of Torontonians and the Austins during the social, political and economic upheavals of the 1920s and 1930s. Visitors will be able to enjoy rotating tours on different themes. School groups can take tours designed specifically for their needs.

Spadina Museum is located at 285 Spadina Rd.

toronto.ca/spadina-restoration
416-392-6910

(Then) The lawns of the Spadina House, home of the Austin family, circa 1875

(Now) Spadina Museum has hosted the Strawberry Festival on the last Sunday in June since 1984.

TORONTO CHALLENGE RUN • WALK

INSPIRING! 76-year-old Gary Waller (above), who was the oldest participant in the MonsterMortgage.ca 5k run crosses the finish line at the Toronto Challenge fundraising run/walk. Gary and 95-year-old Grace Lawrence, who was the oldest walker in the Nissan Canada Foundation 5k walk, and 95-year-old Chuen Szeto, who was the oldest 1k walker, were later honoured by Mayor David Miller for their participation. This year's event was held on June 13 and benefited 53 community groups that are working to enhance the quality of life for seniors and those living in long-term care homes. The 2010 Toronto Challenge raised $497,250; an outstanding result and an increase of 17% over last year.

toronto.ca/challenge

scotiabank nuit blanche

Are you ready for an all-nighter?

Photo: Agnès Winter

Monument to Smile, 2010 – Agnès Winter, video projection

THE fifth annual edition of Scotiabank Nuit Blanche – Toronto's playful sunset-to-sunrise celebration of contemporary art – returns on Saturday, October 2.

A free, city-wide event, Scotiabank Nuit Blanche will feature more than 130 projects by about 500 artists that incorporate video, performance, music, technology, new and traditional media and other artistic creations in unique locations across Toronto. From dusk 'til dawn, participants can walk the streets of Toronto enjoying this unique display of contemporary art.

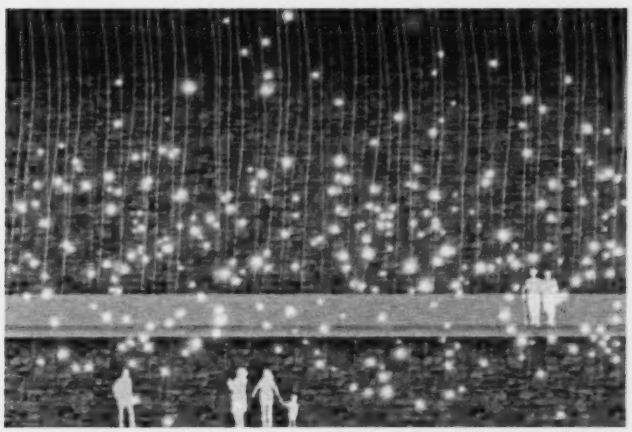
To celebrate the fifth anniversary, the City is also presenting a series of events designed to celebrate the successes of the past four years and extend the event beyond one night.

With so much to see, it will be impossible to do it all in one night! Now's the time to start planning ahead.

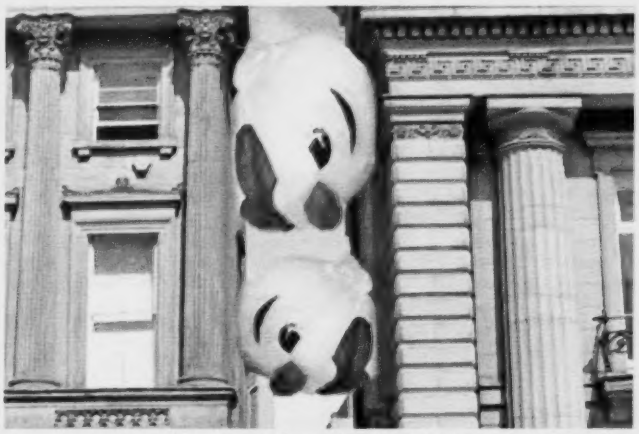
You can enhance your event experience by taking advantage of the interactive tools available online. Use the "My Night" planner to build a personalized itinerary and share it with friends. Take the mobile version of the event web page with you on the road and download the "Night Navigator" app to use GPS technology and photo recognition technology to navigate your route at the event.

For behind the scenes information and updates before, during and after the event, follow @sbnuitblancheTO on Twitter or visit the Facebook page, below.

scotiabanknuitblanche.ca
facebook.com/sbnuitblancheTO



Aurora, 2010: metal, mylar, lights, circuitry, cabling – Phillip Beesley (artisit rendering)



Endgame (Coulrophobia), 2010 – Max Streicher